

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4636  
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001  
PROTECTION TO PLACES OF WORSHIP IN AFGHANISTAN  
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of Hindu, Jain temples and Sikh Gurudwaras in Afghanistan; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure their protection?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS( SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU )

(a)-(b) Government have received reports of the existence of Gurudwaras and temples in Afghanistan. However in the absence of any official representation it is not possible to ascertain details of these Gurudwaras and temples including their present condition. At the same time Government is aware of Taliban's obscurantist ideologies and harsh discriminatory practices against religious minorities and their places of worship. Government has drawn the attention of its foreign interlocutors to these policies.